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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18);
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2015/1/Add.1.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women elects its Bureau for a two-year period. At the 1st meeting of its fifty-eighth session, on 15 March 2013, the Commission elected Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-eighth session and Christine Loew (Switzerland) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions.

At the 2nd meeting of its fifty-eighth session, on 10 March 2014, the Commission elected Libran Cabactulan (Philippines) as Chair for the fifty-eighth session and Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan) and Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) as Vice-Chairs for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions. The Commission also elected Mr. Elbahi as Rapporteur.

At the 1st meeting of its fifty-ninth session, on 21 March 2014, the Commission elected Pille Kesler (Estonia) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-ninth session. It deferred the election of the Chair of the Commission to its second meeting, to be held on 9 March 2015. The Commission will also be called upon to elect a Vice-Chair to replace Mr. García González.

Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand) and Rubén Ignacio Zamora Rivas (El Salvador) have been nominated by their regional groups as candidates for the post of Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for the fifty-ninth session.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/27 and 2009/16, the Commission appointed the following five of its members to serve a two-year term, starting at the fifty-eighth session, on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women: Bernadette S. Ntaba Kadyamusuma (Zimbabwe), Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh), Galina Khvan (Russian Federation), Bruno Santos de Oliveira (Brazil), and Noa Furman (Israel).

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2014/216.

Preparations for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 and 2009/15. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to 5 minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental

organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18)

In its resolution 2013/18, the Economic and Social Council decided that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affected the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective.

In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level could feed into the 2015 review. The Economic Commission for Europe held a regional review event, the Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting, in Geneva on 6 and 7 November 2014. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review, in Bangkok from 17 to 20 November. The Economic Commission for Africa held the ninth African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+20 Review) in Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 November. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a special session on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 51st meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Santiago from 17 to 19 November. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia will hold the Arab High-level Conference on Beijing+20: Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region, in Cairo on 2 and 3 February 2015.

Further to consultations by the Chair-designate, a series of ministerial events and round tables will be held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission to inform the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Ministerial round tables

Under the overall theme "Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls", four ministerial round tables will be held, on the following topics:

(a) Making the economy work for women and girls;

(b) Investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) Transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality;

(d) Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls.

Round tables with ministerial participation

Two round tables with ministerial participation will be held, on the following topics:

(a) National mechanisms for gender equality: advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change;

(b) Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the United Nations regional commissions.

Panel discussions

Panel discussions, with the participation of experts and other stakeholders, will be held on the following topics:

(a) Resources for gender equality: good practices and strategies for action/the way forward;

(b) The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(c) Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities;

(d) Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators;

(e) Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3)

Discussion guide for the ministerial round tables on priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls (E/CN.6/2015/4)

Information on outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level

Economic Commission for Africa: see http://www.uneca.org/beijing-plus-20

Economic Commission for Europe: see http://www.unece.org/genderwelcome-new/monitoring-progress/beijing-platform-for-action/genderbeijing-20.html

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: see http://www.cepal.org/mujer/

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: see http://www.unescapsdd.org/beijing20

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: see http://www.escwa.un.org/sites/BeijingPlus20/index.asp

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

This sub-item is integrated into the consideration of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect such implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In accordance with paragraph 67 (c) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, the Commission will have before it the annual report of the head of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the normative aspects of the work of UN-Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2014/1 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UN-Women) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-

seventh sessions (A/69/38) will be before the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee will also be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2015/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2015/5)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (E/CN.6/2015/6-A/HRC/29/3)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions (A/69/38)

Note by the secretariat transmitting the results of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2015/9)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2015/SW/COMM.LIST/49/R and Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations and action taken by the General Assembly in resolution 68/1.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Economic and Social Council shall invite its subsidiary bodies and the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the Council's agreed theme.

The theme for the Council's 2015 session (July 2014 to July 2015) is "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: what will it take".

In accordance with the understanding reached in briefings and consultations held by the Chair and the Bureau in preparation for the fifty-ninth session, there will be two panel discussions under this item, including to contribute to the 2015 session of the Council, as follows:

(a) "The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions";

(b) "Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change" (contribution to the Economic and Social Council theme for 2015)

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2015/7)

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2015/8)

6. **Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission**

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-ninth session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session (2015)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Bangladesh	2018
Belarus	2017
Belgium	2015
Brazil	2016
Burkina Faso	2017
China	2016
Congo	2018
Cuba	2016
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2015
Dominican Republic	2016
Ecuador	2017
Egypt	2018
El Salvador	2018
Estonia	2015
Finland	2016
Georgia	2015
Germany	2017
Ghana	2018
Guyana	2018
India	2018
Indonesia	2016
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2015
Israel	2017
Jamaica	2015
Japan	2017

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Kazakhstan	2018
Kenya	2018
Lesotho	2017
Liberia	2015
Netherlands	2015
Niger	2016
Pakistan	2017
Paraguay	2017
Republic of Korea	2018
Russian Federation	2016
Spain	2015
Sudan	2016
Switzerland	2017
Tajikistan	2018
Thailand	2015
Uganda	2017
United Republic of Tanzania	2018
United States of America	2016
Uruguay	2018
Zimbabwe	2015